

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY:

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

DISABILITY ACCEPTABLE TERMINOLOGY

ACCEPTABLE/USABLE	UNACCEPTABLE/AVOIDABLE
Persons with disabilities	Disabled persons or handicapped people, persons/ persons living with disabilities
Person (s) with a disability	Crippled, deformed, suffers from, afflicted by or victim of, invalid or any medical labels; physically/mentally challenged or differently able,
Disability or impairment	Handicap, deformity or defect
Wheelchair user or who uses a wheelchair	Wheelchair bound or confined to a wheelchair
Person without a disability	Normal
Person with an intellectual disability or psychosocial disability	Mental retarded/deficient, insane, brain damaged, learning disabled and slow learner, abnormal, sound mind, mentally disturbed
Person with physical disability/ persons with albinisms	Cerebral palsied and spastic/epileptic/paraplegic/ quadriplegic, albino
Person with short stature	Dwarf and midget
Accessible parking, parking for people/ persons with disabilities, accessible toilet, toilet for persons with disabilities	Disabled parking, disabled toilet, handicapped toilet, toilet for disabled, parking for disabled
The Deaf Persons	Deaf-mute or deaf and dumb, Hearing impairment
Deaf-blind	Deaf and blind

DISABILITY ACCEPTABLE TERMINOLOGY

ACCEPTABLE/ USABLE	UNACCEPTABLE/AVOIDABLE (Includes any vernacular that directly translates into these terms/ words)
Persons with disabilities	Disabled person or handicapped people, person/ persons living with disabilities
Person(s) with a disability	Crippled, deformed, suffers from, affected by or victim of, invalid or any medical label; physically/mentally challenged or differently able
Disability or impairment	Handicap, deformity or defect
Wheelchair user or who uses a wheelchair	Wheelchair bound or confined to a wheelchair
Person without a disability, non-disabled person, sighted person	Normal person, Healthy Whole
Person with an intellectual disability or psychosocial disability	Mentally retarded/deficient, insane, brain damaged, learning disabled and slow learner, abnormal, sound mind, mentally disabled
Person with physical disability	Cerebral palsied and spastic/epileptic/paraplegic/quadriplegic
Person with albinism	Albino
Person with short stature	Dwarf and midget
The deaf person, unable to speak, uses synthetic speech	Deaf-mute or deaf and dumb, hearing impairment
Deaf-blind	Deaf and blind
Visually impairment	Blind person
Person with epilepsy	Epileptic
Seizure	Fit
Person who has multiple sclerosis	Afflicted by MS, victim of
Lives with/has/experiences a disability/impairment	Suffers from
Person who had polio, person with post-polio paralysis	Post-polio, suffered from polio
Person with a developmental disability, person with mental retardation, person with a develop mental delay, person with Down syndrome or person who is brain injured, has traumatic brain injury, is brain dam aged, with a closed head injury	Retard, mentally defective, moron, idiot, slow, imbecile, feeble-minded, Down's person, mongoloid
Person with cerebral palsy	CP victim, spastic
People with emotional disorders, mental illness, mental health disability, psychiatric disability	Crazy, maniac, lunatic, insane, nuts, deranged, psycho, demented
Person who has a learning disability	Slow learner, retarded
Accessible parking, parking for people/persons with disabilities, accessible toilet, toilet for persons with disabilities	Disabled parking, disable toilet, handicapped toilet, toilet for disabled, parking for disabled
People living in poverty, people living in situations of vulnerability, people living in situations that make them more vulnerable to	The poor, vulnerable people/groups (although the UN use the term vulnerable groups)
Use gender neutral language such as referring to a person by their role rather than their gender: e.g. 'A doctor was running the hospital.'	Gender information unless necessary: e.g. 'A woman doctor was running the hospital.'
Language which shows respect for local context and the challenges of individual situations such as: 'X's family had not been told there was a way that they could help X to go to school.'	Language of blame such as: 'X's family didn't care about her and so didn't send her to school.'